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UP-HOLLAND URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1920.

F. H. Browne, M. O. H.

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UPHOLLAND URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT 1920.

UPHOLLAND.

July 1921.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Upholland Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you my report upon the Public Health and General Sanitary Condition of Upholland for the year ending December 31st., 1920, as required by the Ministry of Health and the County Council.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT:- The Urban District of Upholland is situate 4½ miles west of Wigan, between the Urban Districts of Orrell, Billinge, Rainford, Skelmersdale and the Wigan Rural District. It is of large extent, having an acreage of 4686 and 24 miles of road, but of small population, which at the Census taken in 1911 was 5233 and estimated by the Registrar General for 1920 to be 5270. The Urban District comprises the following villages:- Upholland, Holland Moor, Digmoor, Crawford and Roby Mill.

The majority of the land is under cultivation and parcelled out into various farms.

There are two Brickworks and three coal pits in the District. These together with the Railways and Agriculture afford employment for the majority of the inhabitants, the remainder find work in pits or cotton factories in neighbouring districts.

The district is very hilly forming the first highland which the winds from the sea meet on sweeping across the country. There is consequently usually a pretty considerable rainfall.

VITAL STATISTICS:- BIRTHS:-During the year the number of births registered was 146 of whom 79 were males and 67 females. This gave a rate per 1,000 of 27·7.

Of this tatal five were illegitimate.

DEATHS:- The number of deaths which occurred during this period was 67. Of this number of deaths 30 were of male persons and 37 females. The death rate produced was 12·7.

The causes of the deaths were as follows:-

Measles	1.
Scarlet Fever.	1.
Diptheria	1.
Influenza	1.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4.
Other Tuberculosis diseses	1.
Cancer & Malignant Diseses	7.
Organic Heart Disese.	11.
Bronchitis	6.
Pneumonia.	3.
Congenital Debility	6.
Violence apart from Suicide.	3.
Sucicide	2.
Other defined diseases.	20.
Total	67.

INFANTILE DEATHS:- Ten deaths were recorded under one year of age giving an infantile death rate of 68.

ZYMOTIC DEATHS:-Three deaths were caused by epidemic diseases viz:- Measles, Scarlet Fever and Diptheria producing a Zymotic death rate of 0.56.

PHTHISIS DEATHS:- This disease was the cause of four deaths producing a death rate of 0.78.

There were three accidental deaths and two cases of suicide during the year.

The subjoined table illustrates the comparision of the above statistics with those of the previous years:-

	Per 1000 of population.				Rate of deaths under one year to 1000 births.
	Birth-rate.	Death-rate.	Zymotic death-rate.	Phthisis death-rate.	
1920	27.7	12.7	0.56.	0.78.	68.
1919	27.4.	11.8	0.78.	0.19.	55.
Mean of 10 years 1910-1919.	26.1.	14.1	1.41.	0.72.	111.
Increase or decrease in 1920 on previous year.	+0.3	+0.9	-0.22.	+0.56	+ 13.
Ten years average.	+1.6.	-1.4.	-0.85.	+0.03.	-43.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES:- Under the Notification of Infectious Diseases Act, 1889, and subsequent orders of the Ministry of Health, 60 certificates were received during the year 1920, as compared with 45 for 1919.

The diseases notified were:-

	1920	1919.
Diptheria	4	6
Enteric Fever	1	3
Erysipelas	1	0
Scarlet Fever	26	21.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	5	2.
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	1	1.
Measles and German Measles	19	4.
Puerperal Fever	1	0
Malaria	1	0
Influenza and Pneumonia	0	8
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	0
	60	45

WATER SUPPLY:- The District has had a constant and good supply of water throughout the year. It has now two sources (a) a deep well sunk into the sandstone of the coal measure in Upholland Village and (b) Disused underground quarries at Roby Mill. The water from both sources is hard and not liable to mineral or other contamination.

The supply from source (b) seems to be practically inexhaustable and that from source (a) is apt to fail after a long period of dry weather (twelve months or more)

These periods are however in Upholland of unfrequent occurrence.

RIVERS AND STREAMS:- The larger portion of the Council's Watershed is in the River Ribble area and a small portion in that of the River Mersey.

Samples are taken at the outfall works, by the Inspectors of the Ribble Joint Committee acting under the County Council, which are usually satisfactory.

There are two small areas, the sewerage from which has so far entered the streams untreated.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE:- With re exception of the two small areas referred to above, the district is well supplied with drains, sewers and outfall works. The Council have under consideration the provision of outfall works for the two remaining areas, which will involve the treatment of the sewage from about 100 houses in each case. The localities are known as Hall Green and Roby Mill.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION:- The number of closets at the end of the year is as follows:-

Middens	350.
Privy closets attached to middens	580.
Dry ashpits	15.
Fresh Water Closets	165.
Portable ashbins.	13.

The Council have recently taken up a Loan for the conversion of all privies to Water Closets (with the exception of those in the Hall Green and Roby Mill areas) in which the Council propose to contribute a sum of £7.0.0. towards each conversion.

SCAVENGING:- The privies of the district are cleared and emptied by the Council's own workmen and the nightsoil disposed of to tenant farmers for agricultural purposes: Dry ashes and house refuse are deposited in suitable tips.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT:- The district is under the continual supervision of the Inspector of Nuisances, whose duty it is to report to the Council all defects.

The number of inspections &c during the year have been as follows:-

No of dwellings inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	29.
No of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	28.
No of dwellings houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	3.
No of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of notices	2.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS:- The district is free from houses let in lodgings and offensive trades, and no regulations in respect of underground Sleeping rooms are necessary, as such conditions do not exist.

SCHOOLS:- The Schools in the district are visited from time to time by the Medical Officer and the Inspector of Nuisances, and the conversion of eight privies to Water Closets at one of the Schools has been effected during the year. School Closure has been necessary owing to the prevalence of measles at the following Schools:-

May 5th to May 31st 1920 Roby Mill (two Schools)

May 17th to June 28th 1920 Digmoor.

Sept: 23rd to Oct 11th 1920 Holland Moor.

The Schools obtain their water supply from the Towns Main.

FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY:-The Daries, Cowsheds and Milk shops Orders are observed in the district and frequent inspections made to ensure the cleanliness thereof.

MILK (MOTHERS AND CHILDRENS) ORDER 1919:- The Council received the approval of the Ministry of Health to a Scheme under this Order and free supplies of milk were supplied to children and Nursing mothers in necessitous cases..

MEAT:- (1) Slaughter houses and the meat supplied to the district are inspected from time to time.

(11) A public abattoir has not been established in the district. The slaughtering of cattle by the local butchers has been very limited during the year.

The meat has been obtained largely from the Birkenhead abattoir.

(111) No carcase or parts of carcases have been condemned for tuberculosis.

(1v) The number of Registered and Licensed slaughter houses is as follows:-

	In 1914.	In Jan: 1920.	In Dec. 1920.
Registered	2	2	2
Licensed	0	0	0
Total	2	2	2

OTHER FOODS:- It has not been found necessary to condemn any article of food. No case of food poisoning has occurred.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE:- The Council contribute part salary of a Health Visitor for visiting Expectant and Nursing Mothers, and Children, under five years of age and for attending the Clinics, which are held in two parts of the district from time to time, and to which nursing mothers are invited to attend for instruction and advice.

Subject to the conditions laid down in the Council's scheme, assisted and free supplies of milk are given where the Medical Officer and the Nurse consider this necessary.

The Council have co-opted influential local ladies on to the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, who have assisted in the work.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION:-(1) The Council have two part time officers engaged in the Public Health Administration.

(11) The only hospital accommodation is a canvas hospital for smallpox, but no cases occurred in the district during the year 1920. For the treatment of diptheria and typhoid the Council have an arrangement with the Wigan Corporation for the treatment of cases of this character.

Accommodation for other diseases has not been provided.

(111) The adoptive Acts in force are as follows:-

The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act 1890.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1890 (In port)

" : : : : : 1907 (In port)

(1V) For bacteriological examinations we have employed Professor Delepin of the Manchester University.

Three blood Specimens were examined in 19~~19~~ 20. ~~with negative results in two cases.~~

HOUSING:- GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS:- The working class houses in the district are largely constructed of stone, with kitchen, scullery and two bedrooms and are let at very cheap rates, especially in the two areas which have been scheduled as unhealthy areas, viz:- Newfold and Alma Hill.

In these areas particularly stonework is decayed and the condition of the buildings defective and unhealthy.

Action by the Council in the provision of houses under the Housing of the Working Classes Acts have been checked in consequence of the provisional tenders being considered as to high by the Ministry of Health. Tenders were obtained for 48 houses.

EXTENT OF SHORTAGE OR EXCESS OF HOUSES:- There are no empty houses in the District at the moment which would indicate if anything a shortage.

ANTICIPATED POPULATION CHANGES:-The above conditions re the shortage of houses however are not likely to continue as it is rumoured that upon resumption of work in the surrounding coal mines it will not be possible to find employment for the number of men previously employed.

If the report is true many persons therefore will find it necessary to leave the district.

OVERCROWDING:- At the present moment we consider a great many of the houses in the district are overcrowded (see anticipated population changes)

FITNESS OF HOUSES:-With the exception of minor defects, i.e. decayed window frames, defective ovens, insanitary privies &c, the sanitary conditions are fairly satisfactory.

No difficulty has been experienced in remedying the unfitness. The owners, as a rule, are only too willing to carry out the defects which the Council authorise.

There are no back to back houses.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT 1901:- Visits have been made from time to time under this Act, and the sanitary conditions were found satisfactory. The classification is as follows:-

Factories for the Manufacture of Bricks	1.
Steam Laundry	1.
Motor Repairing	2.
Bakehouses	5.
Clog & Boot Makers	5.
Barbers and Hairdressers	1.
Joiners &c	3.
Wheelwrights & Blacksmiths	5.
Stone Masons	1.
Briquette Works	1.

In the department of the Inspector of Nuisances 101 notices and letters have been served, and these secured the abatement of 80 nuisances as follows:-

Privies and Ashpits rebuilt	1.
Privies converted to W.C's	11.
Choked gullies, drains & defective gullies	46.
New sewers prior to conversions	1.
Defective closets, Ashpits & cesspools	1.
Collection of Manure	1.
Defective spouting	5.
Damp houses	7.
General House Defects, i.e. broken slop stone pipes, Defective Overs, Defective doors, broken windows &c.	5.
Swine & poultry kept too near dwellings	2.
	80.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

F.H.BROWNE,

Medical Officer of Health.